



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2022



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

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Notifications:



**Promoting Clean Energy
In our Buildings**
Wednesday, July 13
7:00pm Via Zoom
See Page 15 for details

Strategic Planning Retreat
Thursday, September 8
5pm - 8pm
Kimball Farm

Special Town Meeting
October 17
7:00 PM

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
**50 BEST
PLACES
TO LIVE
IN AMERICA**

MONEY MAGAZINE - 2021

46th

Watch

westford CAT
community access television

www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Due to ongoing drought conditions and an increased demand for water, our Water Department has upgraded the Outdoor Water Use Restrictions to Stage III, effective Sunday, July 10th. For more information, please visit the following link: [Stage III Outdoor Water Use Restriction](#).

After much thought and careful consideration, I announced my intent to retire effective Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 to the Select Board. It has been a wonderful 14 years filled with so many positives, including working with so many fantastic town officials and town staff, and completing so many projects and challenges, but it is time for me to let someone else fill this role while I take some time to visit with family, friends, and pursue my other hobbies and interests. In light of my announcement, the Select Board has defined a search process including a request for volunteers to serve on a Town Manager Search Committee. Applicants interested in serving on this Committee may submit a Citizens Activity Form using the following link: [Citizen Activity Form](#)

At the Select Board's latest meeting, Chris Barrett, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission, Gary Coccoluto, Fennick McCredie Architecture, and Stuart Isaac, Isaac Sports Group, presented the results of the Recreation and Aquatics Feasibility Study and requested the board consider support for locations on either Farmer Way or 25 Depot Street/Fisher Way and consider next steps. Ultimately the board voted to support creating a Request for Interest for a Recreation and Aquatics Center located on Farmer Way and/or examine other options on Route 110. A Request for Interest will be reviewed by the Select Board prior to release. To view the study results and presentations, please visit the following link: [Westford Recreation & Aquatics Center Feasibility Study](#).

Attorney Hank Naughton from Napoli Schkolnik PLLC also appeared before the board as they considered entering litigation on behalf of our town's private well owners related to Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) multi district litigation. After discussion, the board unanimously voted to enter litigation on behalf of the town for both water takers and private well owners. A MOU will be created between the Water Department and Select Board to outline terms of division of any settlement.

The Select Board suspended their review of ARPA requests as additional ARPA funds have not yet been received from the state. All pending requests are on hold until a future Select Board meeting. Summaries of the funding approved to date is available to view at the following link: [ARPA Funding](#).

As a reminder, our Strategic Planning Retreat returns this year on Thursday, September 8th, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Kimball Farm. Stay tuned for discussion topics and a registration link.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

The Westford Farmers Market is off to a great start as new and returning vendors fill the lawn of the Roudenbush Community Center. If you are interested in attending, the market is held on Tuesdays through August from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM at 65 Main Street. To find out more information, please visit the following link: [Westford Farmers Market](#).

Thank you to resident Julie Brine for gifting the book "History of the Town of Westford, in the County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, 1659-1883", written by Rev. Edwin R. Hodgman, A.M., to our town of Westford.

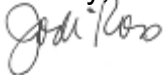
Free iHealth Covid-19 Self-Test Kits are available to residents while supplies lasts. Each kit contains two self-tests and may be picked up at the following locations, Council on Aging, J.V. Fletcher Library, and Town Hall.

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Tax Possession Sale Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete and submit a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

I hope you are having a nice summer!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager



Thanks go out to the Westford Police Department's bike patrol unit for answering questions on bike safety at the Westford Farmers Market.

Community Wellness

The Community Wellness Department is new for the town of Westford. The wellness department will focus on supporting the well being of individuals and families, through outreach and education on the availability of programming and services. This month I would like to bring community awareness to July's BIPOC Mental Health month.

BIPOC Mental Health Month

Mental health conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, gender, or identity. July originally designated as Bebe Moore National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, now referred to as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) Mental Health Month highlights the unique mental health challenges and needs of historically disenfranchised or oppressed racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Mental Health America recognizes that Black, Indigenous, and people of color have rich histories that go #BeyondTheNumbers. While there are stories of resilience born out of oppression, persecution, and abuse, there is immeasurable strength in each of these cultures. (source: mhanational.org/)

Increasing awareness to our community, **J.V. Fletcher Library** has a beautiful BIPOC Mental Health book display. There are additional books available through inter library loan.

Nami (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is sharing stories from various backgrounds and communities. The Strength over Silence Stories of Courage, Culture and Community stories can be viewed at: www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Bebe-Moore-Campbell-National-Minority-Mental-Health-Awareness-Month/Strength-Over-Silence

We encourage you to explore the various resources and supports available:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1 (800) 273-8255
- DMH Multicultural Mental Health Resource & Directory www.mass.gov/doc/bipoc-mental-health-awareness-month-resources/download ; www.mass.gov/lists/dmh-multicultural-mental-health-resource-directory
- Massachusetts General Hospital BIPOC Mental Health Resources www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry/guide-to-mental-health-resources/for-bipoc-mental-health
- Mental Health America BIPOC Mental Health Resources www.mhanational.org/bipoc-mental-health
- National Queer and Trans Therapists of Color Network nqttcn.com/en/

You are not alone.
For more information or help connecting to supports:

Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette
(978) 399-6149 nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

Regional Community Health and Wellness Coordinator, Brittany Nash
(978) 399-2564 bnash@westfordma.gov



When we look
#BeyondTheNumbers,
we find that mental
health conditions do
not discriminate.

This **BIPOC Mental Health Month**, check in on your
mental health by taking
an online screening:
mhascreening.org



July at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.



From the Director: In case you didn't see the exciting news — on July 7, the elected Board of Library Trustees received a *Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program* grant notification from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The MBLC is the state agency which oversees public libraries in the Commonwealth, and administers critical state-wide grants, programs and funds, including oversight of the MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM.

Westford is currently #5 on the Construction Grant waitlist, and has received notification of its potential award one year earlier than expected, due to increased funding at the state level. The \$7.85 million Library Building grant and additional needed municipal funding will require municipal approval by voters within six months, by a two-thirds majority at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 17 and by a majority on the November 8 ballot. Learn more about the [Library Building Project](#).

Young Adult Writers' Club: Tue., July 19 at 2 p.m. A chance to meet up with fellow writers to discuss your latest projects, read your work aloud if you want to, and write in a relaxing and encouraging space. YA Librarian Jess will be present at each meeting with writing prompts, brain exercises, and snacks! [Register here.](#)

Library Garden Check in with Fresh Start Food Gardens: Wed., July 20 at 10:00 a.m. We will be monitoring the progress in our library garden with Fresh Start Food Gardens - Christine Berthold will be back to help us observe and care for our spring planted garden bags. We can talk about what is growing, what it looks like, did we find any bugs, have the critters left us alone? This fun informational program is for kids ages 4 to 10 with a caregiver. Come and learn how you can help us take care of the library garden! [Register here.](#)

VIRTUAL JOB SEARCH HELP FOR 50 & OVER – Create Your "Career Story" Pitch: Wed., July 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m. The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 9:30am to 11:30am, via Zoom. If you are unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career direction, re-entering the job market after a long employment gap, or recently retired and looking for your "Encore Career", this networking group program is perfect for you! [Register here.](#)

The Yo-Yo-Guy: Thu., July 21 at 1:00 p.m. World Champion and four-time Guinness World record holder John Higby will be here to present his unique high energy comedy yo-yo show. This program takes place outside unless it rains – then it is in the Meeting Room. For ages four and up. This program is generously funded by the KDK Foundation in honor of Kurt Kelly. [Register here.](#)

Virtual American Gilded Age Heiresses: Thu., July 21 at 7:00 p.m. Long before the British Invasion, cash-strapped British aristocrats shifted from hunting foxes to more lucrative targets: cash-flush Gilded Age American socialites willing to trade their family's money for an ancient title and often a chilly reception in the British aristocracy. Fans of *Downton Abbey* and *The Gilded Age* will delight as Anglophile and former U.K. resident Claire Evans recounts the tales of wealthy young Americans who infused the bank accounts of many stately homes, including close relatives of Winston Churchill and Princess Diana. She'll also give travel tips for creating a Gilded Age tour for yourself. [Register here.](#)

July at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Virtual Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., July 25 at 2:00 p.m. We'll meet on Zoom this month. If you are new to the Club, please email Ellen Rainville at erainville@westfordma.gov and we will add you to the mailing list to receive the Zoom meeting link. We'll be discussing *Personal: A Jack Reacher Novel* by Lee Child. Print copies are available at Main Desk, and the ebook and digital audiobook are on Overdrive.

Let's Go on a Bug Hunt: Wed, July 27 at 3:30 p.m. Hands on Nature comes to the library to help us discover some of our fascinating local bugs - such as beetles, worms, slugs, ladybugs and caterpillars. You will learn about their importance in our lives and their role in our ecosystem as we explore together on a fun LIVE BUG HUNT on the grounds of the library. We will make other plans if it rains. [Register here.](#)

Middle Grade Book Club and Author Q&A with Dr. Rajani LaRocca: Wed, July 27 at 2:00 p.m. For kids entering grades 5-8. Join us for a discussion of Rajani LaRocca's novel-in-verse *Red, White, and Whole*. The author will be joining us for the end half of our meeting to answer any questions you may have! Copies of the book are available at the Main Desk. [Register here.](#)

Mother Goose Story Time: Every Thursday in July from 10:30 -11:15 a.m. We are OUTSIDE for the summer! This is a great early literacy program for you and your littlest ones. Get them started with reading fundamentals like rhymes, finger plays, and stories. No registration required!

Friends of the Library e-newsletter: The best way to learn about our upcoming programs and new services is through the FOL weekly e-newsletter. [Sign up here.](#)

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)

Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Programs - Adults](#)

[Programs - Kids](#)

[Programs - Young Adults](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.



Cameron Senior Center

The Cameron invites all adults 55+ to join us for our daily offerings!

BEST OF TIMES PRESENTS OUR SPECIALIZED TRIP ITENERARY FOR 2022-2023

Wednesday, July 27 at 2pm

Join US for our specialized presentation with BEST of Times on our upcoming day trips and overnights. This program will include details on trips to Nashville, New York, The Finger Lakes and all the shows and entertainment we have in store for you.

RSVP by calling 978.692.5523



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Wednesday, August 10 at 12pm

We are so grateful for your time, wonderful humor, and talents as well as dedication supporting our Cameron community life. Please join us for a luncheon in your honor. We hope you can be available to attend, and we cannot wait to celebrate and show our appreciation for YOU! Please sign up by calling our front desk at 978-692-5523 and don't forget to tell the front desk registrar all the programs and services you volunteer for through the Cameron.

T.R.E.A.D. -

This is a donation funded program to provide property tax relief for Elderly and Disabled.

Applicants must own and occupy their home AND be 65 years or older OR have a state recognized disability. The T.R.E.A.D. Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Applications are available at the Senior Center now and are DUE BY AUGUST 30. The TREAD Committee will meet to determine funding awards in December 2022. If you have any questions about the program or need application assistance, call Alison Christopher, LICSW at 978-399-2325



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

For Westford residents 55+

While grief can impact individuals in different ways, connecting with others to share stories, experiences, and receive/offer support can help with the grieving process. Please join us if you have suffered a loss and are seeking a safe place to express your feelings, to feel heard, to learn about the grieving process and to obtain helpful coping materials and resources. These "drop in" groups will be offered on the **2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 4:00** here at the Cameron, *however please call to speak with Annette prior to your first visit.* There is no fee and no required attendance. Call Annette Cerullo, LSW at 978-399.2326



REPRESENTATIVE JIM ARCIERO'S POPULAR COOKOUT

Wednesday, August 17 at 12pm

We are glad to have Representative Jim Arciero with us host his annual summer cook-out of hamburgers, hot dogs with cake and ice cream to follow. As always Rep. Arciero will give us an update on the policy, issues and legislation he is working on and/or of interest to our older adults and community at large. Also, there will be time for Q&A. See you on the 17th and please RSVP to 978-692-5523

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center (Continued)

Need assistance with Medicare? SHINE can help!

SHINE is a federally funded program: **S**erving **H**ealth **I**nsurance **N**eeds of **E**veryone...on or eligible for Medicare. Some SHINE counselors counsel as an important part of their job, and some are volunteers who are certified, extensively trained SHINE counselors who ensure familiarity with all plans and options, and stay up to date with Medicare plans, as well as federal and state information and guidelines.

Your health insurance plans are an important part of your budget and SHINE is available all year to help you review your plan, your costs, and will ensure that you have access to all cost-savings program you may be eligible for. **Call to the Cameron at 978-692-5523 to schedule an appointment with our fantastic SHINE counselor: Fred Baumert.**

Spotlight on Emotional Wellness-Skills for Everyone

with Lisa Wessan, LICSW, RM, CLYL

Based on the premise that every thought becomes a chemical reaction in your body, this workshop offers a multimodal approach to improve your ability to recover your emotional balance and feel healthier, more peaceful and relaxed. Please RSVP by calling 978.692.5523. This workshop series is brought to our center by a grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.

Session 5—August 12, 1-3pm DBT Distress Tolerance Skills Part 1: Setting Goals of Distress Tolerance; Crisis Survival Skills; The STOP Skill; The TIPP Skills: Changing Your Body Chemistry; Healthy Distraction Skills. Learning to Self-Soothe without using Substances (e.g. Food, Booze, Pills, Gambling, Porn), cheap dopamine sources (social media, the internet) and other impulse/addiction pathways. Guided Meditation.

To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:

www.westfordma.gov/coa, [www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center](https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Senior-Center)
www.youtube.com or simply call 978-692-5523.

To view the complete
Council On Aging Newsletter
please visit [Newsletters](#)
on our web page.



Westford Senior Center

Westford Health Department

JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING FREE

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING MIDDLESEX COUNTY

WHAT IS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

The Youth Mental Health First Aid training teaches adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents from ages 12-18



HOW IS THIS TRAINING BENEFICIAL?

1. Informs adults about common mental health concerns among youth
2. Helps reduce stigma
3. Helps adults recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance misuse challenges beyond "typical" teen behavior
4. Provides guidance with a simple 5-step action plan (ALGEE) how to properly and safely respond to these challenges

WHO SHOULD KNOW AND BE INVOLVED?

- Parents
- Educators
- All community members

WHEN & WHERE?

Date & Time: July 29th 2022 from 8am to 4pm

Location: Tewksbury Police Department Training Room
918 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Interested in attending?
Please contact Maria Ruggiero for registration

 mruggiero@tewksbury-ma.gov

Westford Health Department



Free iHealth Covid-19 Self-Test Kits



You may pick up your kits while
supplies last!

Each kit contains 2 self-tests with
an expiration date of
October 25th, 2022

Please pick up your free kits from
the following 3 locations



Council on Aging
Library
Town Hall
2nd floor Health Department

For more information
Contact (978) 692-5509

Westford Health Department

HAVE A FOOD SAFE SUMMER

While the warmer weather conditions may be ideal for outdoor picnics and barbecues, the summer months typically see a spike in reports of foodborne illness. Make sure your fun in the sun doesn't get cut short by following some simple summer entertaining tips:

1 in 6

Approximate number of Americans stricken with food poisoning each year

128,000

Estimated annual hospitalizations from foodborne illnesses

Did You Know?

U.S. beef sales are highest during the week of July 4th, when Americans are expected to buy about **\$400 MILLION WORTH OF IT—25% MORE THAN AN AVERAGE WEEK** (according to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association).

Basic Tips

CLEAN



CLEAN SURFACES, UTENSILS AND HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER. If you're at a picnic, bring moist towelettes to use!

Wash all produce under plain running water before eating, cutting or cooking, even if you plan to peel them!

SEPARATE



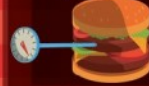
SEPARATE PLATES AND UTENSILS. When grilling, use separate plates and utensils for raw and cooked meat and poultry and ready-to-eat foods (like raw vegetables).

COOK



USE A FOOD THERMOMETER.

Burgers: 160°F



Just because your burger is brown, not pink, doesn't mean it's safe to eat!

CHILL



CHILL RAW AND PREPARED FOODS PROMPTLY if not consuming after cooking.

Don't leave food at room temperature for longer than two hours (or 1 hour if it's above 90°F). If planning a picnic, perishable food should be kept in an insulated cooler packed with ice or ice packs.

What Are You Making?

Here are some food safety tips for preparing a few signature summer dishes.

BARBECUE

Cook all meat and poultry to recommended internal temperatures.

Burgers: 160°F.

Chicken and Turkey: 165°F.

Sausage: 160°F.

Steaks: 145°F
with a 3-minute rest time.

FRUIT SALAD

Rinse all produce before peeling or chopping.

Chop all produce with clean knives on cutting boards not used with raw meat to avoid cross-contamination.

DEVEILED EGGS

Refrigerate prepared eggs until they're ready to be served and once out, keep them nestled in ice to keep them cool.

ADDITIONAL
SOURCE
CDC

USDA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ad Council

For more summer food safety tips, go to

FoodSafety.gov

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Westford Health Department

Social Gatherings, Safer Sex and Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a disease caused by a virus (monkeypox virus) not commonly seen in the United States. Monkeypox can cause a rash which may look like pimples or blisters, sometimes with a flu-like illness. While CDC works to contain the current outbreak and learn more about the virus, it is important that you to have information so you can make informed choices when you are in spaces or situations where monkeypox could be spread. As new information becomes available, CDC will continue to update the CDC monkeypox website to help keep you informed.

How is monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact including:

- Direct contact with monkeypox rash, scabs, or body fluids from a person with monkeypox. We believe this is currently the most common way that monkeypox is spreading in the U.S.
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.
- Contact with respiratory secretions.

This contact can happen during intimate contact including:

- Oral, anal, and vaginal sex or touching the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus (butthole) of a person with monkeypox.
- Hugging, massage, and kissing.
- Prolonged face-to-face contact.
- Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox and that have not been disinfected, such as bedding, towels, fetish gear, and sex toys.

What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

- You may experience all or only a few of the symptoms of monkeypox.
- Most people with monkeypox will get a rash. Some people have developed a rash before (or without) flu-like symptoms.
- Monkeypox symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure to the virus.
 - The flu-like symptoms may include fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, sore throat, cough, swollen lymph nodes, chills, or exhaustion.
 - If someone has flu-like symptoms, they will usually develop a rash 1-4 days later.
- The rash may be located on or near the genitals or anus but could also be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, or face.
 - The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.
 - The rash can look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.
 - The rash may also be inside the body, including the mouth, vagina, or anus.



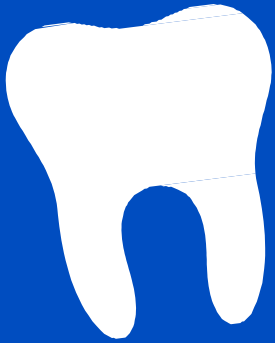
Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until the rash has healed, all scabs have fallen off, and a fresh layer of skin has formed. This can take several weeks.

What are researchers investigating?

- If the virus can be spread when someone has no symptoms
- If the virus could be present in semen (cum), vaginal fluids, and fecal matter (poop)
- How effective the current smallpox vaccines are for the prevention of monkeypox illness



Westford Health Department



Dental Assistance for Seniors

Are you 55 years or older with no dental insurance or Medicare Advantage?

If yes, then you may qualify for financial assistance with small dental procedures such as cleanings and fillings.

Please refer to the Cameron Senior Center to fill out an Annual application.

For more information, contact the
Westford Health Department (978) 692-5509



Westford Recreation

Seasonal Programs for Youth and Adults

Check out Recreation's upcoming seasonal programs, to include Flag Football, Golf, Nitehawks Track & Field, Impact Speed & Agility, Pickleball, Swimming Instruction, and the Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Program, offering classes for all levels and age groups, at Stony Brook tennis courts.

Learn more at [Programs](http://westfordrec.com/Programs) on westfordrec.com.

Summer Weekly Programs

At Recreation's **Summer Weekly Programs**, kids will enjoy activities that relax and engage, like arts & crafts at the Nab, or swimming and s'mores at East Boston Camps. Our Site Directors and counselors focus on safety and positivity, supporting each child as they enjoy new experiences.

Five more weeks of Summer Fun!

Summer Beach Party at D.E.

Summer program coverage just when you need it – on June 22-24 and August 15-19

For ages 4-13, Monday-Friday.

Directors: Recreation Staff Site Directors

Two-week program with full-day, full-week or partial week, early arrival, and extended day options.

Kids Club

Fast-paced, fun-filled activities for children at all levels.

For ages 4-13, Monday-Friday, specific times to be announced.

Directors: Recreation Staff Site Directors.

Seven-week program with full-day, full-week or partial week, early arrival, extended day, and swim lesson options.

Destination Exploration at EBC

Classic summertime activities in a classic summertime setting at East Boston Camps.

For ages 7-13, Monday-Friday.

Directors: Recreation Staff Site Directors

Seven-week program with full-day, full-week or partial week, early arrival, and extended day options.

Learn more at [Summer Weekly Programs](http://westfordrec.com/SummerWeeklyPrograms) on westfordrec.com.



Top to Bottom:

Swim Lessons at Eds Beach

Swinging with Marcus Lewis
Tennis Extension Program

Caught one! (Fish are returned to the Pond.)
Destination Exploration, East Boston Camps

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee Update

On June 11th, Town Meeting approved Article 6, which covered both the funding of a new HVAC system for the Cameron Senior Center, and entering into an Energy Management Services Agreement (EMSA) with a company called Ameresco, which had been selected from a competitive process, to complete that installation. Contracting with Ameresco allows the town to select the best HVAC option for the Senior Center that will also have energy-reduction benefits. The town is also collaborating with Ameresco on potential energy conservation projects for the other municipal and school buildings, and plans to present those potential projects at Special Town Meeting this fall. These energy conservation projects represent a unique way to achieve significant energy, cost, and emissions reductions without significant up-front expenditures.

51 Main St – Following the authorization by the Select Board to engage sustainability consultants to review the building designs, members of the CEASC joined the discussion at the Permanent Town Building Committee meeting to discuss different alternatives for the HVAC system. The CEASC looks forward to joining the PTBC at Special Town Meeting this fall to present updated designs for the project.

Library Expansion – CEASC representatives have joined the Library Building Sub-committee efforts to ensure that the J.V. Fletcher Library Expansion Project is able to take advantage of the Massachusetts Library Construction Grant and aligns with the goals of Westford's Climate Roadmap.

Town Building Guidelines – The CEASC is leading a working group which includes members of town staff, Finance Committee, and PTBC, to develop guidelines for municipal building projects to make sure they are in line with Westford's Climate Roadmap. In the future, the working group will be working to extend these building goals to new commercial and residential projects.

MA Building Codes – The CEASC is monitoring development of new state building codes, including the Updated Stretch Code, which is expected to be effective on January 1, 2023, and which will apply to all 299 Green Communities, including Westford.

MA Clean Energy and Climate Plan – The CEASC is monitoring the state's progress in outlining statewide interim targets towards the state's ultimate goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The new climate plan sets emissions reduction targets of 33% by 2025 and 50% by 2030, using 1990 levels as a baseline. The CEASC considers the state goals in our work on the Westford Climate Roadmap, which we continue to discuss with groups in town.

(Continued on next page)

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee (continued)



Promoting Clean Energy in our Buildings: What is Acton's Path to Climate Action?

Join Us for a Free Webinar
with Acton Select Board
Member Jim Snyder-Grant!

**Wednesday, July 13
7:00 p.m. via Zoom**



Westford's Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee has determined that nearly 60% of our greenhouse gases come from our buildings.

Acton has revised its bylaws to encourage and require new buildings to have clean energy equipment and systems.

How can local boards, committees and residents codify this work so that future projects meet clean energy benchmarks and goals? Q&A will follow the presentation.

Register: [WestfordClimateAction.org](https://www.westfordclimateaction.org)

The webinar will be recorded and can be accessed at:
[westfordclimateaction.org](https://www.westfordclimateaction.org)



Clean Energy
and Sustainability Committee